

Mr. Michael Friedman, Lead Deputy Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, Md. 20857

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Dear Mr. Friedman,

The rapidity with which genetic engineering is moving into U.S. agriculture, and the apparent **promotion** of the practice by the three Federal Agencies which are supposed to regulate **crops** and foods is a matter of grave concern to me. It is apparent that citizens are being left **out** of this entire process. Once again corporate "science" is using massive persuasion techniques to sell us a product and a process. The claim is made that genetic engineering (GE) of our food is not only harmless but that it is the answer to feeding burgeoning human population⁸ around the world.

There is no evidence to support any of these claims. **Actually**, none of the GE crops has any of the characteristics required to produce more food. **In fact**, they require special soils, huge machinery, increased use of chemicals. Using **Monsanto** as an **example**, GE crops are deliberately designed to tolerate massive application of **Monsanto's** herbicide Roundup. Roundup is one of the corporation's biggest money makers.

Great monopolies are being created in this entire process; monopolies **on** primary **foods**, in the production of **terminator** (one season only) seeds, **in** a forced market for Roundup use. Farmers will be dependent upon a single supplier for seeds. **Organic farmers** could be squeezed out of this picture.

The risks in genetic engineering of foods are not known. The policies of the USDA, **FDA**, and EPA are **all complicit** in establishing policies which offer no **protection whatsoever** to people or the environment. **No** records are required to indicate which **farms** and **companies** are producing GE foods. No labeling of crops and products is required. **We consumers** are deprived of making informed choice when purchasing **food**. Under these conditions who will even know about or be able to trace health effects from consumption of these foods, or from the gross contamination of soils caused by **extensive** single herbicidal use?

I am writing to protest the existing and planned monopolistic **control of food production**, over farmers and agricultural practices; specifically over the foods I may be eating or may be forced to eat. I protest the environmental threats to the soil and the earth, which can only be translated into threats to human health.

At the very least, a moratorium on approvals and renewals of **GE crops** by your agency should be immediately instituted and a system of labeling to identify GE foods should be established. This could be a first step **in** restoring to us the civil rights which **are** being confiscated by corporate powers,

Thank you for your attention to these issues. A reply would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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